

# Assessment Descriptions and Rubrics

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Econ 890-R, Summer 2021

## Homeworks

Homeworks are available on GitHub. The accompanying datasets are posted to Sakai. The homework should be completed in RNotebook, although the student may want to start by writing an R script first to check their code. Homework should be turned in in via Git.

Each homework is graded on a scale of 10 points.

1. Effort
  - **7 points:** All questions are attempted.
  - 3 points: Half of the questions are attempted.
  - 1 point: Less than half of the questions are attempted.
  - 0 points: No submission.
2. Style
  - **2 points:** The student wrote the assignment in RNotebook, curating the output.
  - 1 point: The student wrote the assignment in RNotebook but did not curate the output.
  - 0 points: The student did not write the assignment in RNotebook.
3. Explanation
  - **1 points:** The student adequately explains their answers.
  - 0 points: The student provides no explanation of their code/answers.

## Capstone Project

There are two options for the capstone project. The student can complete an original research proposal or a replication of a published economics paper. The student turns in the capstone project by sharing their dedicated GitHub repository with the instructor.

### Research Proposal

The student should propose an original research question. The project must include a motivation for why the question is of scientific interest, a description of the data or simulation, and an explanation of the methods and results. Even though this is a research *proposal*, the student should try to access some data and present a portion of the project, an empirical exercise, etc. Basically, the student should use R!

- Outline Due Tuesday July 6, 5:00 p.m. ET: The project proposal outline should identify the research question and a discussion of potential data sources. The student must also discuss how they will use R to address the question.
- Final Project Due Monday August 2, 5:00 p.m. ET: The final project will be a GitHub repository with the following elements:
  1. The typed project writeup. This can be done in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , RNotebook, or any word processor.

2. The complete code compiled and explained in RNotebook. This can be thought of as a “Replication Appendix” or “Data Appendix.”
3. The R scripts used to complete the project.

## Replication

The student should select a published economics paper and download or simulate the data. The project should include a summary of the paper and the specific results to be replicated. The replication code must be original and not the published code by the original authors.

- Outline Due Tuesday July 6, 5:00 p.m. ET: The outline should identify at least one paper (the student may still be deciding between a few options) that the student is considering and discuss how they will use R to implement the replication.
- Final Project Due Monday August 2, 5:00 p.m. ET: The final project will be a GitHub repository with the following elements:
  1. The typed project writeup. This can be done in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, RNotebook, or any word processor.
  2. The complete code compiled and explained in RNotebook. This can be thought of as a “Replication Appendix” or “Data Appendix.”
  3. The R scripts used to complete the project.

## Rubric

The capstone project is graded on a scale of 72 points along the following dimensions.

1. Code Explanation
  - **25 points:** The RNotebook document is clear and concise. One can read it and understand how the code for the project works.
2. Code
  - **25 points:** The code is organized, efficient, and makes use of a broad range of functions and structures.
3. Writeup
  - **10 points:** The writeup is clear and adequately describes the research question and analysis.
4. Outline
  - **7 points:** The outline is completed on time.
5. Repository
  - **5 points:** The repository is organized and contains all the required elements.